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DIARY OF PRESIDENT WASHINGTON.
JANUARY 1-JUNE 21, 1796.

By MISS MARY M. TOWNSEND.

In the Washington Collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania is a copy of "The American Repository of Useful Information containing a Calendar for the present year, &c.," printed in Philadelphia 1796, by B. Davies, in which President Washington made records of the weather and a few personal items, between January 1 and June 21, 1796. On the fly leaf is written, "Tho^s B. Washington, Presented by his affectionate uncle Bush^d Washington. The Diary of Gen^l George Washington."

1796. *Jan. 1.*—Remarkably mild and pleasant—perfectly clear. Received the National colours from M^r. Adet the Minister Plenipo. to day:

Much company visited.—

2.—Equally fine with yesterday.—Saw the Stern of the Frigate raised.

3.—Rain in the night—foggy till noon—then clear. Wind S. W.

4.—Remarkably mild—clear & pleasant—Wind S^o W

5.—Very white frost—Southerly Wind & lowering Sun

6.—Rain in the Night and violent storm—variable wind & a little Snow.

7.—Clear forenoon—lowering afternoon—Wind N^o Wst.

8.—Clear but cool—Wind at N. W.

9.—Clear & cold. Wind at D^o lowering towards night.

10.—Lowering all the forenoon—about 2 o'clock began to Snow—Wind at S^o W^t

11.—Snowing very moderately till Noon with the Wind at N° Est—then Rain w^{ch} carr^d all off.

12.—Clear with the Wind at West and moderate.

13.—Clear in the forenoon, lowering afterwards—Wind at N° Est.

14.—Raining all day moderately & steadily—Wind at N° Est but warm.

15.—Cloudy most part of the day. Wind Westerly.

16.—Similar to yesterday in all respects.

17.—Snowing more or less all day with the wind at N° E^t

18.—Cloudy, & now and then Snowing—Wind Westerly

19.—Clear in the forenoon, cloudy afterwards with great appearances of Snow.

20.—Some Snow fell in the night and at intervals & with a mixture of Rain through the day. Wind Easterly.

21.—Clear with the Wind Westerly.

22^d.—Clear—wind westerly—Mercury in the morning at 16 degrees.

23.—Perfectly calm, clear and pleasant—Mercury 18 in the morning.

24.—Clear in the forenoon—a little lowering afterwards—wind at S° West—Mercury at 30 & falling.

25.—Lowering all day with appearances of Rain—W^d N° E^t

26.—Thick weather, but mild & thawing—Wind at S° W^t

27.—Rain fell in the night. Fine Snow all the forenoon—Wind Easterly.

28.—Light Snow in the morning—clear afterwards & mild. Wind S° W^t

29.—Clear & turned much colder. Mercury at 18 Wind at N° W^t

30.—Quite clear—mercury at 8 degrees—W^d at N° W^t but not strong.—

31.—Very cold—Mercury at 4 degrees—very clear with little wind but a piercing air.—

Feb 1.—Clear all day—Wind westerly in the forenoon & S° W^t afterwards.

2.—A sprinkle of Snow in the morning—cloudy afterwards with appearances of Rain. Wind S° W.

3.—A slight Snow fell in the Night—clear day—mild in the forenoon—Cooler afterwards—Wind at N. W.

4.—Clear and rather cold. Not much wind & that N. W.

5.—Very clear & pleasant with but little Wind from the N° E^t.

6.—A slight Snow, not an Inch deep, fell last night, clear without wind.

7.—Clear all day with but little wind from the Eastward.

8.—Cloudy all day—Wind Westwardly—Moderate.

9.—Clear with the Wind at N° W^t and rather cold—but fine notwithstanding for the season.

10.—About 7 o'clock it began to Snow—and kept steadily at it until 11. Then chang^d to rain & cont^d all the day afterwards—Wind Easterly.

11.—Raining in the Morning—clear afterwards and as mild as April—Wind at S° W^t

12.—Wind from N° W^t & cool, but fine notwithstanding.

13.—Clear & pleasant with but little wind and that from the Southward.

14.—Warm in the forenoon with the Wind Southerly. Cooler afterwards—Wind getting r^d to the N° W^t

15.—Cool, & clear all day, but not unpleasantly cold, Wind continuing at N° Wst but not hard nor disagreeable.

16.—A little variable with the wind westerly.

17.—Clear, & remarkably fine with the Wind Southerly.

18th.—Wind at N° E^t and rain^s all day.—In the night Snow ab^t one inch thick fell.

- 19.—Clear with the wind at West & rather cool.
- 20.—Clear & cool—Wind westerly.
- 21.—Clear in the forepart of the day but lowering afterwards—Wind S° W^t
- 22.—Snow ab^t 2 Inches deep fell in the Night—forenoon cloudy. afterwards clear. Wind westerly.
- 23.—Wind at N. Wst pretty fresh & cold.
- 24.—Cold & towards evening lowering & likely for Snow. Wind at N° Wst
- 25.—Thick foggy morning with appearances of Wet, but none fell.—W^d at West.
- 26.—Much such a day as yesterday—but Wind more Southerly.
- 27.—Very thick morning again, but clear afternoon—Wind Southerly.
- 28.—Very clear and remarkably fine & pleasant.
- 29th.—A good deal of Rain fell in the Night.—Fine Rain all day with the Wind at East.
- Mar. 1.*—Thick heavy morning with the Wind at North.—the afternoon not much better.
- 2.—Same kind of day, & Wind as yesterday with spitting of Snow.
- 3.—A little Snow fell in the Night—heavy and thick all day. Wind ab^t North.
- 4.—Again a little snow fell in the Night—but not en^o to cover the ground.
- 5.—Heavy morning with clouds all day—Wind at North, a little Easterly.
- 6.—Thick morning but very pleasant afternoon with but little wind.
- 7.—Cloudy morning but clear afternoon—Wind west—Shifting more Northerly & Easterly, & clouding towards Night.
- 8.—Snow 4 Inches deep fell in the Night & continued spitting until 10 or 11 o'clock—then cleared & grew cold—Wind at N° W.
- 9.—Cold & clear—Wind N° W^t & Westerly.

10.—Cold & cloudy in the forenⁿ but clear & mild afterw^{ds}—Wind getting to the S° Wst

11.—Clear & pleasant all day. Wind getting more Westerly.

12.—Clear and warmer than yesterday—Wind more South.

13.—Forenoon clear & still afternoon very windy from the S° West.

14.—Lowering and likely to rain with the wind in the same place cloudy more or less all day.

15.—Tuesday clear and warm. Wind still Southerly and pretty brisk.—

16.—A good deal of Rain fell last night and this morning.—About 7 P. M. it cleared & blew violent from ab^t N° Wst all day & night.

17.—Clear with the Wind from the same point.

18.—Dull & heavy forenoon with light falls of Snow from the N° E^t.—Clear afternoon.

19.—Clear & cold all day with the Wind fresh from N° W.

20.—Clear morning—Wind Westerly—pleasant all day.

21.—Morning lowering—but clear afterwards—Wind S° E^t growing warm.

22.—Heavy morning but clear afterwards and warm Wind still at S° E^t

23.—Clear and warm Wind fresh from S° W^t

24.—Cloudy morning & cooler wind at N° W^t and clear afternoon.

25.—Wind in the same place clear & cool all day.—

26.—Wind Easterly but clear & very pleasant notwithstanding.

27.—Clear all day—the Wind at East & pleasant tho' a little cool.—

28.—Thick, foggy morning with moderate rain about noon with the Wind at East—About 3 °clock it cleared & was pleas^t but afterw^{ds} grew cloudy & cold.

29.—Very pleasant all day with the Wind westerly but variable.

30.—Clear in the forenoon with the wind mostly at west—cloudy afternoon.

31.—Clear and warm with but little wind & that Easterly.

April 1.—Thick morning but clear afterwards & warm—very little wind & that N° E^t

2.—Hazy & smoaky—very little wind & that westerly—in the night a little rain.

3.—Clear with the Wind N° Easterly—somewhat cooler.

4.—Same wind & weather as yesterday.

5.—Clear and still cooler the Wind, tho' not fresh, at N. W.

6.—Clear & rather cool—Wind being at N° E^t in the morning—warmer in the afternoon wind being at S° W.

7.—Cool in the morning, but warmer afterwards wind getting to South West.

8.—Warm with appearances of Rain—Wind at S° W.

9.—Thick morning, but clear afterwards with a brisk S° Westerly wind—ground very dry.—Smoaky.

10.—Again very thick and smoaky in the morning Wind Easterly & fresh last night.—afterwards North-erly.

11.—Wind at N° W^t and cold all day.—

12.—Thick morning but clear afterwards, rather cool wind Easterly in the morning & westerly afterwards. Mr. Washington Craik joined as private Secret^y 12th Apr^l 1796.

13.—Just such a day as yesterday.—& Wind the same.

14.—Wind at East in the morning and very thick light Rain about Noon.

15.—Very thick morning with but little wind—clear noon & rain in the afternoon.

16.—Wind at N° E^t and from nine until 11 a close and constant rain—clear afterwards.

17.—Wind at East & clear all day—a little cool.

18.—Clear & serene with very little wind.—

19.—Clear forenoon—with the wind pretty fresh from the S° Wst

20.—Clear all day with little wind—that from S° W.

21.—Clear with the wind at N° E^t but warm & pleasant notwithstanding.

22.—Clear morning with the wind at East w^{ch} shifted in the afternoon to S° W^t & grew warm.

23.—Clear morning with the Wind fresh from N° E^t w^{ch} continued so through the day.—& weather cooler.

24.—Thick heavy morning with drops of Rain, Wind at S° W. in the afternoon there was pretty good Shower—cool.

25.—Cloudy morning but clear afterwards & cool all day—Wind at N° E^t

26.—Cloudy morning & evening clear midday—cool all day with the Wind at N° E^t

27.—Wind at N° E^t—about 8 o'clock in the morning it began a fine Rain and continued till Noon—towards Night there was a very fine rain for an hour or two.

28.—Clear and pleasant with the Wind Westerly.

29.—Wind at N° W^t—fresh—cold & disagreeable all day.

30.—Wind and weather the same as yesterday.

May 1.—Clear and cool all day—Wind at N° W^t

2.—Much such as yesterday. both in wind & weather.

3.—Wind at S° W^t and warmer.

4.—Clear morning—Wind variable from S° E^t to South.

5.—Wind at S° E^t and fresh with clouds in the forenoon, & mostly thro the day.

6.—About 6 o'clock it began a moderate rain, with the wind from East—and continued raining moderately but steadily until 7 o'clock in the evening.

7.—Wind in the same quarter with a little rain in the forenoon—clear afterwards

- 8.—Wind still at East with clouds & sprinkling rain.
- 9.—Cloudy with appearances of Rain—some of which fell in the night.—Wind Easterly.
- 10.—Cloudy with the wind Westerly.
- 11.—Weather variable, with small showers.—Wind at S° Wst & growing warm.
- 12.—For the most part clear but at times threatening rain.—Wind Westerly.
- 13.—Wind Westerly—shifting to S° W. & getting warm. Clear & very pleasant.
- 14.—Wind at S° E^t and lowering more or less all day.
- 15.—Wind in the same quarter, with clouds, & sometimes sprinkling of Rain; in the afternoon a pretty heavy shower with sharp thunder.
- 16.—Wind Westerly & S° West.
- 17.—Cloudy more or less all day with light drippings now & then of Rain. Wind at S° E^t
- 18.—Wind at East—a thick mist till 7 °clock—then a steady rain till ten—variable afterwards with a shower abt 6 °clock—& Wind—N. W.
- 19.—Wind at East in the forenoon, with constant rain from 6 till 12 °clock Wind westerly afterw^{ds}
- 20.—Wind Southerly & weather Rain in the afternoon.
- 21.—Clear with little or no Wind until the afternⁿ
- 22.—Clear with hard wind from S° Wst & South.
- 23.—Brisk wind from South all day with great appearances of Rain.
- 24.—Wind Northerly and cool and for the most part of the day clear.
- 25.—Wind at N° E^t; & fresh with constant rain until 4 °clock—thick & misty afterw^{ds}
- 26.—Wind in the same place with constant rain till at 4 °clock when it ceased & began again at night.
- 27.—Thick morning, with some drops of Rain—Wind Easterly—about 9 °clock—the wind shifted to S° W^t cleared & grew warm.

28.—Wind at S° W^t in the morning—varying to West and N° W^t with changeable weather & a shower.

29.—Clear forenoon—lowering afternoon with Wind at S° Wst

30.—Rain in the Night w^{ch} continued steadily till noon when it cleared Wind still at S° West.

31.—Variable—with rain at times—and wind at S° West.

June 1.—Clear with the Wind varying, but chiefly Westwardly.

2.—Clear all day with the wind at S° West & Warm.

3.—Clear & warm with but little wind and that South-erly.

4.—Warm with but very little wind.—In the after-noon there was appearances of Rain but none fell.

5.—Clear morning & showery afternoon—with vari-able wind from S° W. to N. E^t

6.—Raining a little in the forenoon—clear afterwards Wind Easterly.

7.—Wind Easterly—very heavy morning and raining more or less all day with the Wind at East.

8.—Heavy morning with the Wind at East, variable afterwards & Wind South.

9.—Tolerably clear all day with the wind at S° & warm but rain in the Night.

10.—Wind at East in the morning with Rain—in the Evening and Night a great deal fell.

11.—Wind at East with a little Rain very warm.

12.—Cloudy all day with great appearances of Rain—Wind Easterly in the morning and Westerly after-wards.

13.—Cloudy for the most part of the day—but no Rain.

14.—Clear Morning—but Rainy afternoon.—Wind var'y.

15.—Cloudy but no Rain and tolerably cool.

16.—Thick heavy morning & heavy Showers of Rain in the afternoon.

17.—Clear all day and very warm—especially in the afternoon.

18.—Clear & very warm all day with sprinkling Rain in the afternoon.

19.—Very warm with very little wind.

20.—Slight rain in the Morning but fair before and after noon.

21.—Clear and warm all day and but little wind.